

Did you know?

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REQUIREMENTS FOR A WILL

A will is a legal document in which you can plan the distribution of your property (your estate) on your death. You can make a will if you are 19 years or over, are mentally capable and consent to its terms. A will that is made under duress is not valid.

Legal Requirements of a Will

- Must be in writing: typed or handwritten. Date the will so there is no confusion later on as to what is the most recent will.
- You must sign the will at the end in front of two witnesses.
- The two witnesses must sign the will in front of you and each other. Each must be 19 years or over and mentally capable. A witness must not be a beneficiary.

What Can Be Put in a Will?

- * An executor must be appointed. This is the person who is responsible for carrying out your instructions in the will.
- * Specific gifts or property bequests to individuals.
- * How the rest of your estate is to be divided up after the specific bequests are distributed. You can appoint the guardian of your minor children.

- * You can express your wishes regarding your funeral and what happens to your body after your death. Note that this not legally binding on your executor.

Can I Change My Will?

- You can change a will at any time. Either make a new will or make a document called a codicil which refers to the will and lists the changes you want. It must be witnessed in the same manner as the will it is amending.
- A new will automatically cancels any other you had in the past.
- Unless a will is made in contemplation of marriage, a new marriage revokes a will that was written prior to the marriage.
- You can cancel a will by simply destroying the original.

For More Information

Dial-a-Law (Tape# 175, 176)
Lower Mainland: 604-687-4680
elsewhere: 1-800-565-LAWS
Publications in your local library and bookstore such as Self-Counsel Press.